

V.—SHORTER NOTICES.

- I. A TREATISE ON THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE. By John Syer Bristowe, M. D., F. R. C. P. Edited with notes by James H. Hutchinson, M. D. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea, 1876. 1089 pages. Chicago: Jansen, McClurg & Co.
- II. CHEMISTRY: GENERAL, MEDICAL, AND PHARMACEUTICAL, INCLUDING THE CHEMISTRY OF THE U. S. PHARMACOPŒIA. A Manual on the General Principles of the Science, and their Applications in Medicine and Pharmacy. By John Attfield, Ph. D., F. C. S. Seventh Edition. Revised from the Sixth (English) Edition by the author. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea, 1876. 668 pages. Chicago: Jansen, McClurg & Co.
- III. THE ELECTRIC BATH, ITS MEDICAL USES, EFFECTS AND APPLIANCES. By Geo. M. Schweig, M. D. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1877. 134 pages. Chicago: Jansen, McClurg & Co.
- IV. EPITOME OF SKIN DISEASES, WITH FORMULÆ FOR STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS. By Tilbury Fox, M. D., F. R. C. P., and T. C. Fox, B. A. (Cantab), M. R. C. S. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea, 1876. Chicago: Jansen, McClurg & Co.
- V. HAY FEVER, OR SUMMER CATARRH: ITS NATURE AND TREATMENT. Including the early Form or "Rose Cold;" the later Form or "Autumnal Catarrh;" and a middle Form or July Cold, hitherto undescribed. Based on Original Researches and Observations, and containing Statistics and Details of several hundred cases. By George M. Beard, A. M., M. D. New York: Harper & Bros., 1876. 266 pages. Chicago: Jansen, McClurg & Co.

I. Dr. Bristowe's work is one of the more comprehensive but less exhaustive class of text-books, which, taking up a department of medicine, cover the whole field in a fashion, giving abbreviated but still pretty fair accounts of all the principal general and special diseases to which man is liable. There are objections to this plan in text-books, and they have some force, especially when we consider that many graduates of our medical schools seem to consider that the works of this kind used by them in their first studies, embody the sum of human knowledge

of their subjects for all time. For a student's manual simply such books are less objectionable, and there are even advantages in their comprehensiveness.

The only valid objections that can be brought against the present work, are that it is unnecessary, as we have already a sufficient number of works on the practice of medicine, and second, that from the brevity with which it treats important subjects it is of a class to lead to superficial study and imperfect knowledge. To the first of these objections it may be replied that we have no general works on the practice of medicine that in many respects are so fully up to the results of modern researches, and in so far as this is true, it is a satisfactory answer. In reply to the second objection, we may say that it contains far more than the average medical student can be supposed to know at his graduation, and that it is designed, as the author himself states in his preface, for students, and not for old practitioners as an exhaustive work of reference. On the whole, it seems to us that we can say as much in its favor as we can of many more ambitious works, and can in the main, agree with the American editor in his statement, that it fully meets the wants of the medical student.

The section on nervous diseases which occupies a little over two hundred pages at the close of the book, is commenced with general remarks on the anatomy, physiology and general pathology of the nervous system, an excellent feature as it seems to us. Afterwards follow the special pathology and therapeutics, which alone appears in most works of this kind. The same method is adopted in treating of diseases of other organs, such as those of the respiratory, vascular and genito-urinary systems, but not in all, nor generally to the same extent. This plan is not particularly novel, but we like the way in which it is carried out, especially in regard to the nervous system.

There are many points of detail in which we disagree with the author, but the limits of the present notice forbid us discussing them here to any extent. Thus he sometimes misplaces affections in his classification; such examples as cerebro-spinal meningitis among the specific fevers, and Basedow's disease and angina pectoris among the vascular disorders are sufficient to illustrate this fact. Others might also be cited.

In conclusion, we can recommend this work to students as a text-book up to the times, but, of course, not as containing all that a practitioner will require.

II. The various successive editions of Attfield's chemistry that have appeared since its first publication nine years ago, sufficiently attest the favor in which it is held by the medical profession. It is the medical student's chemistry *par excellence* and will probably long retain its position as such. The present edition includes a notice of all the substances of the British,

the United States and the Indian pharmacopœias and will be found to contain some mention of nearly every product used in medicine. We know of no work of the same size and scope that equals it for the medical man, certainly none that excels it.

III. Dr. Schweig's little book treats of a subject that has largely been neglected by the regular profession. There are reasons enough for this; the method of electrical treatment here described has been largely in the hands of irregular specialists, it requires especial and expensive appliances, and its apparent results have been, with some show of reason in many cases, attributed to the moral effect produced by the surroundings rather than to a really therapeutic effect of the electricity. It is also, or at least appears to be, a very general shotgun kind of method, which does not *prima facie* recommend itself to the careful trained physician.

Still there is also good reason to think that this method has been undervalued by the profession, and this little work may serve to support this opinion. There is a class of disorders which do not admit of local applications with benefit, and to them this method seems on the whole to apply very well. Others again, more localized in their pathology, can also be benefited by applications of this kind. Dr. Schweig gives the result of his experience with the electric bath in the treatment of cases of various diseases, such as rheumatism, neurasthenia, neuralgias, hysterical affections, etc., and shows, we think satisfactorily, that it may be a valuable therapeutic aid in the management of many of these affections. Still we do not think it by any means, the only effective measure, and it is fortunate that it is not, since it is practically out of the reach of the great majority of patients at the present time. We can recommend Dr. Schweig's book as an exposition of the merits of this method of applying electricity for the cure of disease.

IV. This is the most abbreviated manual of any important class of disorders that we have recently met with. It is in fact too brief to receive our entire approval, whatever that may be worth, for a work on this class of diseases. It is, it appears to us hardly to be recommended to the student, and the practitioner should depend on larger and fuller works than this. Its principal value would be as a reference book for the pocket, and it is not an evidence of the highest qualifications to be obliged to utilize such an article. Still, we have no doubt that the book will be a profitable one to the author and publisher.

V. The lengthy title of this little work is almost a description of its contents. Dr. Beard has given a very complete monograph of the increasingly prevalent disorder known as Hay Fever, describing its history, symptoms and its geographical distribution, and also giving accounts of a number of illus-

trative cases, a good general statement of its probable pathology, and a critical review of the various methods of treatment. His views as to the nature of the affection as well as of the essential identity of the three forms described, seem pretty well supported by the facts and the arguments set forth. There seems to us to be no reasonable doubt of the neurotic basis of this affection. We think that the researches here detailed will be of real value to the medical profession, and also to the highly respectable class of the laity that are sufferers from this disease.
